

Newfield Conservation Commission (NCC) Meeting Minutes – 12/06/05

Present: Commission Members Bobbie Byrne, Lindsay Carroll, Ray Konisky, Dave Mason, Steve Shope (Alt.), Ray LaBranche Alison Watts (Chair); Mark Bouzianis (Open Space Committee, Chris Kane (Consultant for Jeffrey Taylor & Associates)

Open Meeting: 07:03 pm

New Business

C Kane, a biologist/consultant available to us through a grant from the NH Estuaries Program, described a draft work plan for developing baseline documentation and working with local volunteer monitors at four town parcels with conservation easements. The parcels, and possible volunteers to assist C Kane with monitoring, are as follows:

- Anderson (L Carroll)
- Daley (M Bouzianis)
- Moore (S Shope)
- Gilmore (L Hill)

A Watts agreed to distribute a letter to each of the parcel owners in the next week to inform them of monitoring requirements and request their assistance with setting dates.

C Kane provided a monitoring outline questionnaire and a monitoring checklist; he will contact volunteers following the initial letter to set up visits and work through our files to prepare documentation.

A Watts asked about possible signage to mark the parcels; L Carroll will look into this.

A Watts raised the issue of easement amendments and the need to create a town policy for consistent handling; after discussion, we agreed that a policy was needed and that Jeffrey Taylor & Associates would be available to assist us. (C Kane, M Bouzianis, and S Shope departed)

Old Business:

R Konisky described a grant submission in the amount of \$3,000 to the NHEP for legal fees reimbursement associated with the Greenway project.

A Watts discussed the fill and dredge permit application from the residential property owner at 18 Finn Avenue. The owner has asked to fill about 5360 sq ft of wetland in order to improve the aesthetics of his front yard and the safety of his driveway. A site visit was conducted at the property on 12/3/05, with A Watts, D Mason, R Konisky, and the owner present. Members at the site walk described their impressions of the project as a request focused largely on the aesthetics of the front yard. Concerns were raised about the necessity of further loss of wetlands in the subdivision, given the recent filling

of wetlands to create the roadway and improve several house lots, and the precedent that would be set by allowing wetland destruction for improving front yard landscapes. The consensus among NCC members was to suggest that DES deny the application. However, given that trees have already been cut and burned surrounding the wetland, landscaping work could be allowed in the wetland buffer (with appropriate erosion controls) to improve aesthetics of the yard.

A Watts introduced a bill in the amount of \$1815 from the town attorney for legal work done in November associated with the Greenway proposal. It was agreed to table this item pending discussion with the attorney regarding future expected expenses.

No minutes from last meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Read by Dave Mason. Motion to accept by A Watts, seconded by L Carroll. All in favor YES.

Next Meeting: January 16, 2006

Motion to adjourn by D Mason at 8:23 pm, seconded by L Carroll. All in favor YES.

NCC Member Ray Konisky 12/06/05